

I Know How to Explore Careers in Which I May Be Interested.

AREA: Career Planning and Exploration
CATEGORY: Exploring and Planning for Careers
TIME: 45-60 minutes
GROUP SIZE: Small group or class
GRADE LEVEL: 6-9
MATERIALS: *Exploring Career Paths* booklet, "What Do You Enjoy Doing?" and "Career Path Inventory" activity sheets, *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, and *Occupational Outlook Handbook*

Career Path Inventory

Introduction:

Many students have predetermined ideas about their career choices but are not aware of the responsibilities in that career. The activity sheets provided in this lesson allow students to react to characteristics of all career paths. By identifying those characteristics they enjoy, they will have made a correlation between activities and specified career paths. When they have identified the paths related to the activities they enjoy, they will examine the specified paths in more detail, choosing some careers within the path that interest them the most.

Procedure:

1. Distribute the "What Do You Enjoy Doing?" activity sheet to each student.
2. Read the introduction of the activity sheet and discuss the "why" behind choosing a career.
3. After students have completed the activity sheet, emphasize that the best way to choose the right career is by closely examining their interests, abilities, and the careers that combine both of those things.
4. Distribute and ask students to complete the "Career Path Inventory" activity sheet. Review the directions.
5. Instruct students to use the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, *Exploring Career Paths* booklet, or the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* to complete the activity sheet.

Notes:

Read the directions with the students for clarification. If possible, students should be allowed to work in pairs in order to assist with the reading and completing of activity sheets. Follow this activity with individual advisement sessions to help students explore career choices or provide information.

Evaluation Suggestions:

Ask students if they can list a possible career choice after doing this activity.

What Do You Enjoy Doing?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Have you thought about your future career? Are you hoping to be a doctor, astronaut, teacher, carpenter? Do you really know what these people do in their work? Do you know what you will have to do in order to work in any of these careers?

The best way to start exploring the right career for you is to examine your interests and abilities. When you understand the interests and abilities people working in a career path typically share, you can identify those career paths that interest you the most. Then as you continue through school, you may identify those areas in which you have abilities that could be used in certain careers. As you continue with your study of careers, you may identify careers that involve a combination of job responsibilities that interest you and that you do well. Such a combination should provide you with a satisfying career.

Directions: Read each responsibility below. Check those responsibilities that you would enjoy doing.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> managing a hotel (BMT) | <input type="checkbox"/> designing machines (IET) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> driving a tractor (NR/A) | <input type="checkbox"/> learning more about solar energy (IET) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> scuba diving (NR/A) | <input type="checkbox"/> working with computers (BMT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fighting fires (HuS) | <input type="checkbox"/> cleaning houses (HuS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assisting a dentist (HeS) | <input type="checkbox"/> waiting tables (HuS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cutting and styling hair (HuS) | <input type="checkbox"/> drawing cartoons (AC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> broadcasting the news (AC) | <input type="checkbox"/> learning how to treat diseases (HeS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> painting houses (IET) | <input type="checkbox"/> flying airplanes (IET) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assembling car parts (IET) | <input type="checkbox"/> cutting down trees (NR/A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> planting trees (NR/A) | <input type="checkbox"/> assisting a nurse (HeS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working in a bank (BMT) | <input type="checkbox"/> training porpoises (NR/A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> teaching cooking classes (HuS) | <input type="checkbox"/> helping a sick animal (HeS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working in an amusement park (HuS) | <input type="checkbox"/> planning menus (HuS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> playing in a music band (AC) | <input type="checkbox"/> operating telephones (BMT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assisting a physician (HeS) | <input type="checkbox"/> making doors for a house (IET) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> directing air traffic (IET) | <input type="checkbox"/> selling real estate (BMT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> raising horses (NR/A) | <input type="checkbox"/> collecting rocks for study (NR/A) |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> studying underwater life (NR/A) | <input type="checkbox"/> researching mental illnesses (HeS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> running for public office (HuS) | <input type="checkbox"/> caring for young children (Hus) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> managing a hospital (BMT) | <input type="checkbox"/> managing a baseball team (BMT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working in a health spa (HuS) | <input type="checkbox"/> acting in a play (AC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> taking photographs (AC) | <input type="checkbox"/> studying the weather (NR/A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building a factory (IET) | <input type="checkbox"/> taking x-rays (HeS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working in a laboratory (HeS) | <input type="checkbox"/> working on a dairy farm (NR/A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working at a nuclear power plant (IET) | <input type="checkbox"/> catching fish (NR/A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> supervising an office (BMT) | <input type="checkbox"/> delivering mail (HuS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> helping sick people (HeS) | <input type="checkbox"/> testing patients for diseases (HeS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dry cleaning clothes (HuS) | <input type="checkbox"/> setting up exhibits in a museum (AC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bookkeeping (BMT) | <input type="checkbox"/> working in a fast food restaurant (HuS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> programming computers (BMT) | <input type="checkbox"/> operating a train (IET) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assembling television parts (IET) | <input type="checkbox"/> raising chickens (NR/A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building a dam (IET) | <input type="checkbox"/> navigating a ship (IET) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> owning a business (BMT) | <input type="checkbox"/> reporting in a court room (AC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> decorating interiors of houses (AC) | <input type="checkbox"/> filling prescriptions (HeS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> studying constellations (NR/A) | <input type="checkbox"/> designing clothes (AC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> directing an orchestra (AC) | <input type="checkbox"/> designing telephone systems (IET) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assisting a physical therapist (HeS) | <input type="checkbox"/> drawing plans for schools (AC) |

Count the number of responsibilities you have checked for each career path. List those numbers beside each career path below. Check the three career paths with the most numbers.

- _____ • Arts and Communications (AC)
- _____ • Business, Management, and Technology (BMT)
- _____ • Health Services (HeS)
- _____ • Human Services (HuS)
- _____ • Industrial and Engineering Technology (IET)
- _____ • Natural Resources/Agriculture (NR/A)

Career Path Inventory

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write the names of the three career paths for which you checked the greatest number of related job responsibilities on the "What Do You Enjoy Doing?" activity sheet. If some scores are the same, choose the career paths that interest you most. Using the *Exploring Career Paths* booklet, list three careers that interest you in each of the career paths.

Career Path 1: _____

Occupational Interests:

Career Path 2: _____

Occupational Interests:

Career Path 3: _____

Occupational Interests:

Even though inventory may have led you to the three career paths above, be adventuresome and explore at least one occupational interest in the remaining career paths.